

# Royal Worcester thimble painters

I have always had a love for handpainted Royal Worcester thimbles.

My best thimble find is an unmarked 19th century handpainted bird, with the lovely translucent porcelain of early Worcester in the taller, narrow shape of their early thimbles. This was found here in Brisbane. It was sold to me as milk or opaline glass, a term I had never heard before.

It is a term used for translucent porcelain of 19th century Royal Worcester.

Another term associated with early Royal Worcester porcelain, is blush, peach bloom or a biscuit finish, describing the warm creamy ground of the porcelain. According to Henry Sandon, Royal Worcester thimbles made between 1860 and 1939 are of a glazed parian body which has a creamier, smoother body than bone china, which is very white and translucent.



Then there is the handpainted Kookaburra (1926) that Edwin Holmes first described in May 1994. This is the only type of Royal Worcester thimble that I have encountered with a self-patterning of indentations on both sides. Holmes could not explain this. I have now seen other examples of RW thimbles with this type of marking.



this strange side hatching is only found with kookaburras, no other subject has been painted on this different surface



three kookaburra thimbles with their unique indented sides  
 kookaburras and kingfishers are my favourite birds painted by RW painters



example of a handpainted Locke thimble that preceded the Royal Worcester brand



it is impossible to date the plethora of Royal Worcester thimble boxes

## Dating your Royal Worcester Thimbles

The early blush, biscuit or translucent thimbles of the late 19th century have no signatures or marks. Up to the 1880s, later painters from then into the twentieth century could not surpass the earlier finest painting.

Royal Worcester thimbles with a **puce** or purple backstamp date from late nineteenth century into early 20<sup>th</sup> century and thimbles are usually signed by the painters.

Dating of these thimbles can be calculated from 1891 by a series of dots and/or symbols. The table can be found in The Thimble Society of London, winter 1997 catalogue, p5 (some images reproduced below)

Royal Worcester produced hand-painted thimbles until 1986.

Those Royal Worcester thimbles in production after 1986 are decal thimbles.

See also: "Learn More About ... Royal Worcester Decal thimbles"



A gorgeous bunch of 1975 handpainted flowers – I wish the picture from Elizabeth Aldridge was in colour

**Royal Worcester Porcelain Backstamps (1862 - 1963)**

Reproduced from Thimble Society of London, winter 1997, p5.



L>R: 1862 - 1876 - 1892 - 1916 - 1928 - 1956

Between 1862 and 1867 specific indications of the year of manufacture are rare but may sometime be found in the form of the last two figures of the date, e.g. 64 for 1864, printed below the standard mark.

From 1867 a letter system was used to indicate the year of manufacture. From 1876 the crown sits down onto the circle.

A = 1867	K = 1875	U = 1883
B = 1868	L = 1876	V = 1884
C = 1869	M = 1877	W = 1885
D = 1870	N = 1878	X = 1886
E = 1871	P = 1879	Y = 1887
G = 1872	R = 1880	Z = 1888
H = 1873	S = 1881	O = 1889
I = 1874	T = 1882	a = 1890

From 1891 pieces were coded with a system of dots and/or symbols below the standard mark.

1891 'Royal Worcester England' added  
1892 One dot  
1893 Two dots  
1894 Three dots  
continued until 1915 when 24 dots are arranged around the standard mark.

1916 \* below the backstamp  
1917 \* and one dot  
1918 \* and two dots  
continued until 1927 when 11 dots are arranged around the standard mark.

1928 □ and the words	1931 ∞
"made in England"	1932 ∞∞
1929 ◇	1933 ∞∞∞
1930 ÷	1934 ∞∞∞∞

continued until 1941 when there were 9 dots and the triple circle mark.

1942-48 no dating system used	1951 W.
1949 V	1952 .W.
1950 W	1953 .W..

continued until 1963 when 13 dots are arranged around the standard mark. After 1956 the letter W was nearly always substituted with a letter R in a circle, i.e. 1960 = R or W under the circle with 10 dots.

The Royal Worcester Porcelain Co., Ltd. was formed as a Joint Stock Company in 1862 and since that time pieces have been marked with some type of date code.

The standard backstamp from 1862 onwards, illustrated here, includes the number 51 in the centre which refers to the year 1751 when the Worcester Porcelain Company was founded by Dr. John Wall.

In ignorance, this number is often mistaken for the date of manufacture of a particular thimble.



L>R: puce 1928 - black, 1959 - black, bone china (1951) - black post-1964 fine bone china (no England) -- fine bone china (England)

It is difficult to find information on thimbles produced by Royal Worcester. There is a list of Royal Worcester painters in Von Hoelle's *Encyclopedia of thimbles*, but it is incomplete. Hopefully, this listing will go somewhat to remedy this.

The Sandon listing of RW painters was only compiled until 1971.

It really inspires me when former Royal Worcester thimble painters or their descendants, have taken the time to make contact and send me their own Royal Worcester painting history. They probably found their names on these thimble pages, when doing an internet search. Not many of them have kept examples of their own work on thimbles.

One painter remembers: "Also, a lovely lady guildler who was in her own section of the room, putting the gold lines around our finished work... Mrs Appleton (known as Mrs A)".

Thimbles are small, so when painter's name is too long the **signatures** were often shortened or only initials used.

I have included the first names even when not part of the signature.

Most signatures only contain the initial and surname. The signature is usually on the back of the thimble, alongside a leaf or flower sprig. The early thimbles usually have the signature closer to the main painting, and not on the back.

Royal Worcester thimbles were never signed by the artist inside the thimble.

Some signatures are always going to be difficult to decipher, but with practice one can become familiar with styles of painting and so be able to attempt to guess - e.g. Kitty Blake's signature is often illegible or "messy".

You may notice how many identical paintings there are, done by different artists, especially amongst the later painters. Once you have handled or looked at the painting depicted, you will soon be able to identify the later style of painting (post 1970), even tho the thimbles are not dated.

This interesting item of information has just come to my attention:

"In the late 1970s the demand for Royal Worcester hand-painted thimbles grew enormously. One can speculate as to the reason(s). Maybe the thought of an original thimble was alluring. Royal Worcester did not want to employ more artists for economic reasons as thimbles are time-consuming to paint freehand (at least three firings).

The foreman of the painters' division, Edward Townsend, came up with a solution.

He designed a number of outline prints - six flowers, six fruit and eight birds - which were printed onto the blank thimbles. The artists did not have to create an individual painting but merely coloured in the blank design. This speeded up the process noticeably.

Some of the painters (Sue Waldron) were dismissive of this process and much preferred doing original work on larger items."

Compare the same topic (ie blue tit) amongst the most modern thimbles and you will notice that this is true: they all look alike. From observation the common themes are = fruit with apple, peach, pear and plum in that order with smaller fruits used alongside. The birds depicted are tit, kingfisher, wren, robin, bullfinch, and a generic red bird and one with yellow colouring. Rose and daisy of various colours dominate the flower paintings with iris, violets and forget-me-nots following.

Other English garden birds were handpainted by the earlier bird painting experts and feature swallow, chaffinch, redstart, thrush, goldfinch and even a woodpecker. Primrose, heather, pansy, morning glory, daffodil, anemone, crocus, wattle, tulip, carnation, poppy and bluebell are some of the rarer flower paintings on RW thimbles, including an example of strawberry flower and the fruit.

**Fruit** is a more modern topic for painting.

The modern painters who painted from the 1970s onwards include:

Fiona Bakewell, Christine Cameron, Janet Collins, Claire Cox, Pat Dunkley, Sheila Dutfield, Gioran Garcia, Mary Igoe, Angela Lawson, Helene Ligthert, Mandy Munslow, Christine Parker, Sue Roberts, Dorothy Sparks, Julia Vass, Christine Wilson.

It is interesting to note that the later painters were all women - in the early days of Royal Worcester, most of the painters were men.

With the modern painters, note that there are two sizes of the RW backstamp. I have used this information to date the probable time period the painters worked in the thimble painting dept.



modern RW backstamps in two sizes  
L: 1964-1970 – R: 1970-

The Royal Worcester factory and shop at Severn Street in Worcester closed on 14th June 2009. The buildings were then demolished, for other development.

The Royal Worcester name was purchased by Portmeirion Pottery of Stoke-on-Trent.

The list of RW thimble painters includes dates that each painter is known to have painted for Royal Worcester. I have included their life dates, where they are available, in square brackets alongside their names.

I have included as many thimble examples as possible for each artist.

The list may not be complete. To date there are **235 artists** listed who are believed to have painted thimbles for Royal Worcester (this includes paintresses' (a delightful RW early term used in the factory) maiden and married names, where they painted under both names).

So far - with help from collectors around the world - **218** have examples of their handpainted Royal Worcester thimbles. There are now only **18** thimbles to find by these RW painters (\* definitely known to have painted RW thimbles).

F Bizl\* | Tony Blakemore | E Burkin | T Dear\* | C Gull\* | Kevin Hunt | JOH\* | Keever\* | Peter Love | Mona McHarg | Terence (Terry) Nutt  
Maurice J Pledger | Michael Powell | Christopher Smith | Judy Vickers | Fay Stephens | Beverly Waldo



some of the Royal Worcester fruit painters

I have found and included examples of **20** modern thimble painters who were painters for RW. They went on to paint thimbles under their own names or brand. There is a quite a trail for modern thimble collectors to discover! Check their entries below to see where else they appear.

Fiona Bakewell | Wendy Bowen (nee Clarke) | David R Bowkett | Christopher Burns | Nigel Creed | Gerald Delaney | Milwyn Holloway  
Christopher Hughes | John Smith | Allan Norwood | Terence Nutt | Judy Oram | Peter Platt | Maurice J Pledger | Steve Smith  
James Skerrett | Rosemary Waldron | Sheila Whitcombe | Derek Wilson

[For other handpainted thimble topics see](#)

Australian handpainted thimbles  
British modern handpainted thimbles  
Gerald Delaney handpainted thimbles  
Graham Payne handpainted thimbles  
Jasper's of Yorkshire handpainted thimbles



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' Abdul '

- Peter Platt's nickname

(sadly the signature won't photograph)



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**James Allen** [Allen]

(b.1923)

1937-1958 and 1971

- a protégé of William Powell



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**H Annaby**

1955



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**J Archer**

1970s-



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**Annette Arnold** [O]  
(b.1953)  
1966- [larger backstamp]



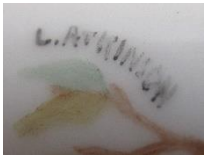
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**Arnott.**



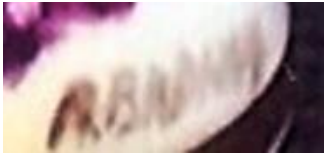
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**L Atkinson** [L Atkins]  
1970s-



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**Arthur Badham** [A Bad.]  
(b.1935)  
1951-



**Fiona Bakewell** [F BWell]  
 (b.1956)  
 - maiden name **Fiona Round**  
 1973-  
 - in July 2009 I read on ebay that Fiona is still painting – I have an enamelled pillbox handpainted by Fiona



**Gerald Banks**  
 1950-



**Ernest Barker**  
 (b.1890)  
 1920s-1956  
 - also painted under the name of **B A Kerr**



**Maude Bell**  
 1904-1931



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**Anthea Bills [AB]**

1970-



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**M Bills**

1959-



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**F Bizl**

known to have painted a flower thimble date-coded 1941-49

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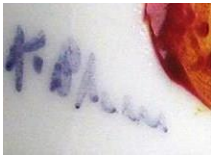
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**Kitty Blake**

1905-1953

- she specialised in flowers and small fruits

- a difficult signature to decipher



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**Tony Blakemore**

1970-

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**J Blight**

1970s-



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**J Bon.**

1950s-



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**C Bootle**  
1970s-



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**P Born**  
1950s-



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**David R Bowkett**  
1948-1963

- moved to Devon where he opened his own studio. He handpainted thimbles in 2002. Bowkett died in 2009

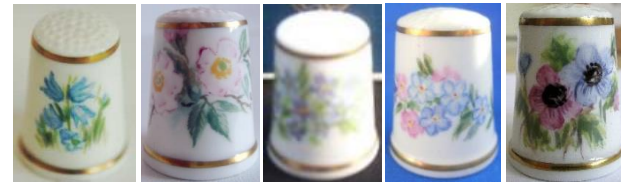
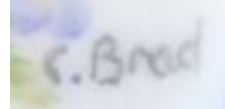


signed 'Bowkett'. An example of his fruit thimbles, from his time in Devon:



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**Edith Bradley [C. Brad]**



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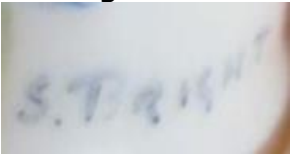
**R Bridle**

1960s-  
- this artist's thimbles don't have gold  
trims



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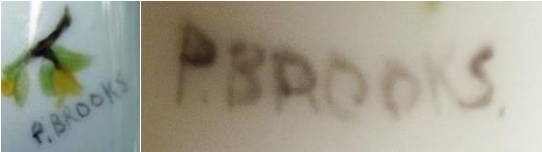
**S T Bright**



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**P Brooks**

1960s-



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**E Brown**

1970s-



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**J Brown**

1950s-



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**J Bulls (?)**

1950s-

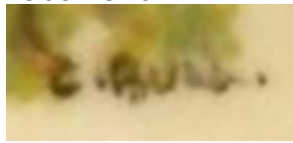
This is a strange one!! Look at the backstamp carefully. The owner can see that the backstamp is under the glaze, but the Royal Worcester name is missing!! Have you seen anything like this before?



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**Carolyn Bullock [C Bull]**- married name **Carolyn Hammond**

1968-1970



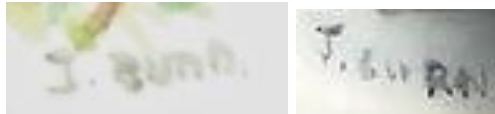
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**E Burkin**

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**J Burn**

1959-



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**Christopher Burns**

signed thimbles on his [Harcourt China](#) in 1987. Signed 'C Burns' near the painting. Two examples:





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**R Bury**  
1970s-



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**E Cam.**  
1970s-



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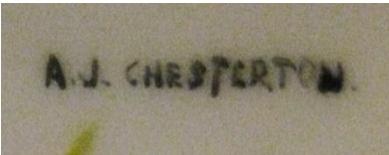
**Christine Cameron**

(b.1951)  
February 1975-November 1978  
- Christine worked in the gilding department from 1967 to 1971, where one of her jobs was gilding thimbles



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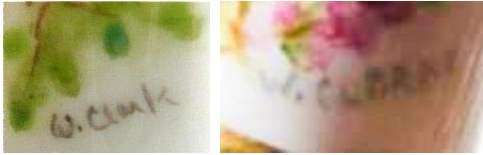
**A J Chesterton**  
1970s-



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**Wendy Clark/Clarke**

-1976



founder of [Hurley Porcelain](#) in New York painting under her married name Wendy Bowen 1976-1981. Signed 'W. Bowen'.  
Three examples of her thimbles:



1978

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**Cole**



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**P Colin**

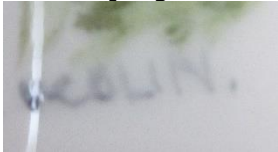
1950s-1960s



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**V Colin**

1960s- [larger backstamp]

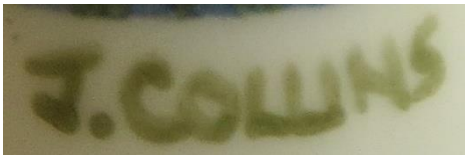


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**Janet Collins**

(b.1957)  
1975-1977

- Janet was a thimble painter during the 1970s in The Enamellers Dept, then she went on to paint in the Ladies Figurine Dept
- She kept up her painting, and now (017) paints watercolour commissions (pets, wedding venues etc)
- now Janet E Humphries



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**K Compt.**



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**M Cotton**

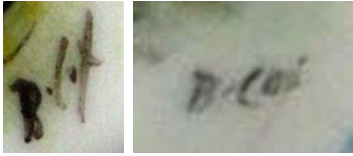


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**K Coty**



**Bryan Cox**  
1950s-



**Claire Cox**  
(b.1958)  
1975-1977



**Nigel Creed**  
1963-

Creed, a Master Painter, painted thimbles for Thimble Society of London in 1990s. Ken Russell a Master Gilder completed the design. Russell was Royal Worcester's last Master Gilder signed 'NC' near painting - 'Russell' or 'Ken Russell' (1934-2020) lettered inside. Three examples:



**Charlie Creese**  
1925-1938



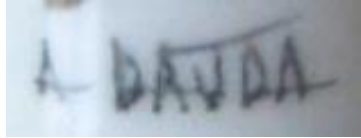
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**D Cy**



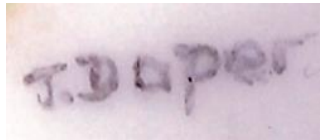
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**Alina (known as Lee) Dajda**  
(b.1953)  
1975-1977



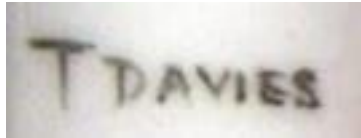
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**J Daper**  
1960s-



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**T Davies**  
1960s-



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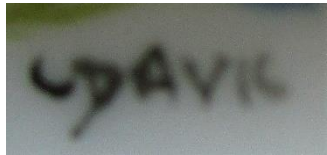
**Agnes Davis**  
(1901-1990)  
1950s-



**C Davis**  
1950s-



**L Davis**  
1959



**V Day**  
1970s-



**T Dear**  
1970s-

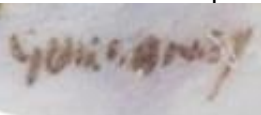
- known to have painted a bird thimble

**Gerald E Delaney**  
(b.1933)

- 1948-1959 and 1971-1973
- painted fruit under Ted Townsend
- moved to Coalport
- never on full production



went freelance painting under his own name/backstamp



- see my topic on Gerald Delaney thimbles for further information



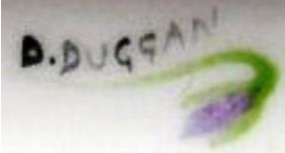
**Dorothy Doughty**  
(1892-1962)



1960

**D Duggan**

1960s-



**Pamela (Pat) Dunkley**

(b.1945)

1973-1981

- one of the last four painters



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**Sheila Dutfield** [ S D/field ]

(b.1958)

1975-

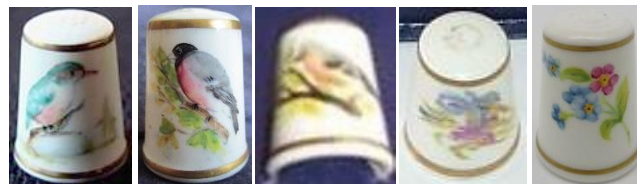
- maiden name **Sheila Shinnie**



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**J Egusquiza**

1960s-



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**Christine Erdman** [ E ]

(b.1950)

1965-



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**Yvonne Evans**

1960s-



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**J Ewan**

1950s-





**A Faid**

1964-



**C Farmer**

1950s-

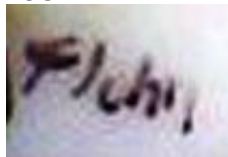


**J Flet** (is this shortened from Fletcher?)



**Flohn**

1937-



**A Footman**

1960s-



**D Fratt**

1960s-



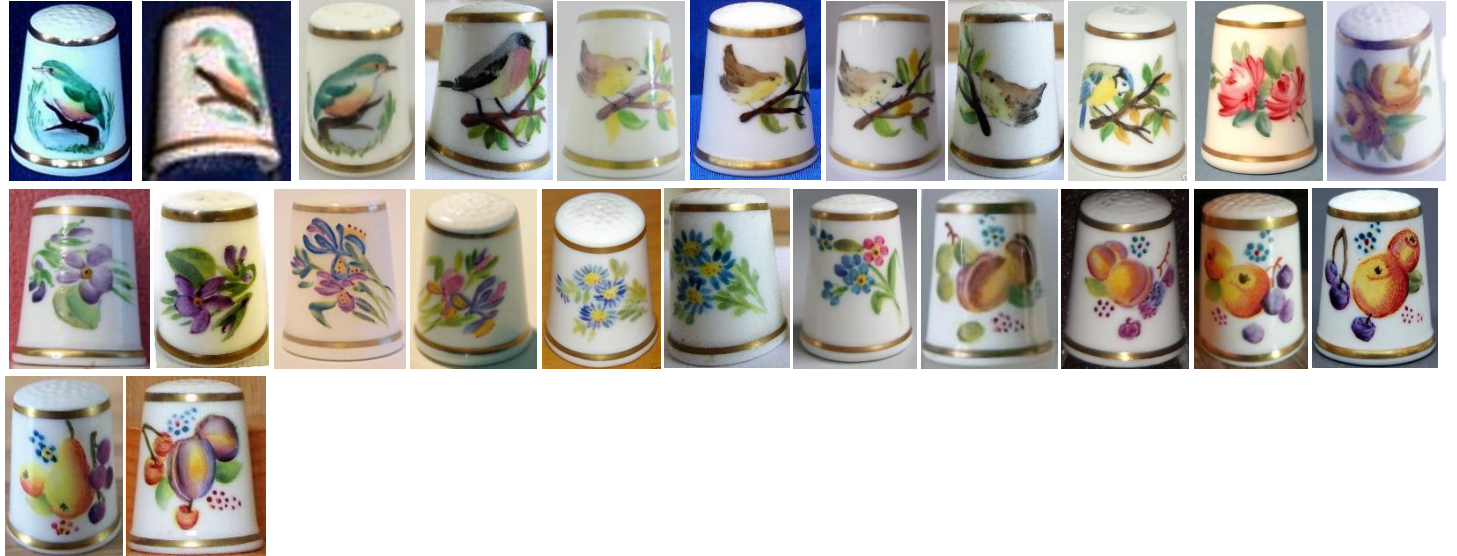
**John Fuller**  
 (b.1940)  
 1955-



**A Gall' [ AG ]**  
 1970s-



**Giorann Garcia**  
 - married name **Giorann Henshaw**  
 1974-1980  
 - joined the enamelling dept  
 Dot Sparks was her supervisor and she was friends with Angela Lawson in the same dept. Giorann returned to Gibraltar (info from the painter in 2004)



**D Garn**  
 1970s-



**J Gart.**  
1970s-



**S Gegg**



**M Gibson**  
1970s-

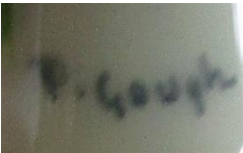


**Ron Godfrey**  
1932-1939

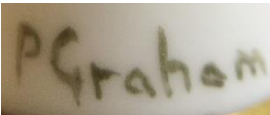
- went on to signwriting after WWII



**P Gough**  
ca.1960



**P Graham**



**Lybbe Griffiths** [ L Griff. ]  
-1976



**C Gull**

known to have painted a bird thimble

**Gwilliam**

known to have painted roses with groups of flowers on thimbles

- apprentice in 1950s

**D Hall.**

1954

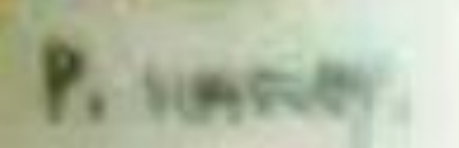


**Carolyn Hammond**

- maiden name **Carolyn Bullock**

**P Hardy**

1960s-



**M Hatch.**



**D Hatchett**

1970s-



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**A J Hemming.**

1960s-



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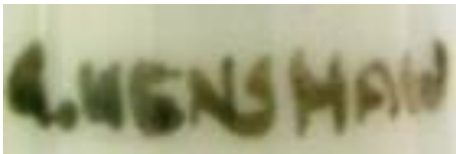
**Giorann Henshaw**

- maiden name **Giorann Garcia**

1974-1980

- joined the enamelling dept

Dot Sparks was her supervisor and she was friends with Angela Lawson in the same dept Giorann returned to Gibraltar (info from the painter in 2004)



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**F Herd**



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**B Hill**

1954-



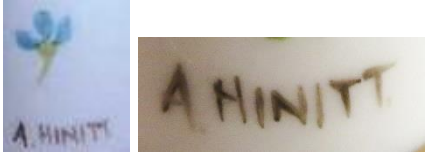
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**K H Hill**

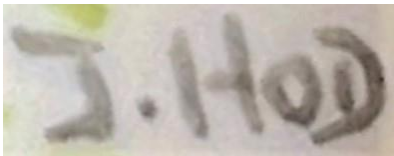
1950s-



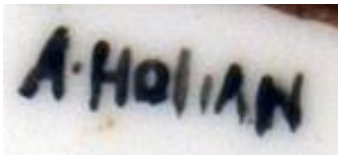
**A Hinitt**  
1960s-



**J Hodgett** [J Hodg] [J Hodge] [J Hod]



**Anne Holian**  
1960s-

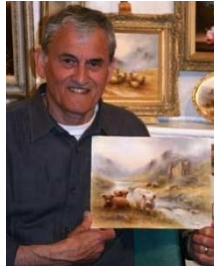


**G Holloway**



**Milwyn Holloway**

(b.1940)  
1954-1971



Milwyn Holloway's bird thimbles post-RW use the name of Claymore Ceramics. All are signed 'MH' near the bird.  
Two examples:



**R Homer**

1970s-



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**Christopher Hughes** [C Hugh]  
[ C Hug.]  
(b.1948)  
1960-1980 [some have larger  
backstamps]



Painted thimbles on his [The Christopher Hughes Collection](#) label from 1987. Signed 'Christopher Hughes' near the painting. Two examples:



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**Kevin Hunt**  
(b.1955)  
1971-

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**Mildred (Millie) Hunt**

1926-  
- married name **Mildred (Millie) Johns**  
- painted between the two World Wars





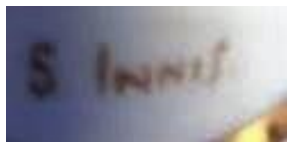
**John Hussell**  
1950s



**Mary Igoe [M I]**  
(b.1956)  
1971-



**Susan Innis**  
1977-



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**S James**  
1970s-



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**B Jeff.**  
1960s-



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**J Jeynes**  
1970s-



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**Mildred (Millie) Johns**  
1926-  
- maiden name **Mildred (Millie) Hunt**  
- painted between the two world wars



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**JOH**  
1940s

known to have painted flowers on a thimble date-coded 1940

---

**K Jones**  
1970s-



---

**Yvonne Jones**

1960s-



---

**Karen. ---**

1970s-

- does anyone know her other name?
- could it be K Jones?



---

**Keever**

1970s-

known to have painted a bird thimble

---

**Doreen Knott**

- 1962

- later Mrs Martin



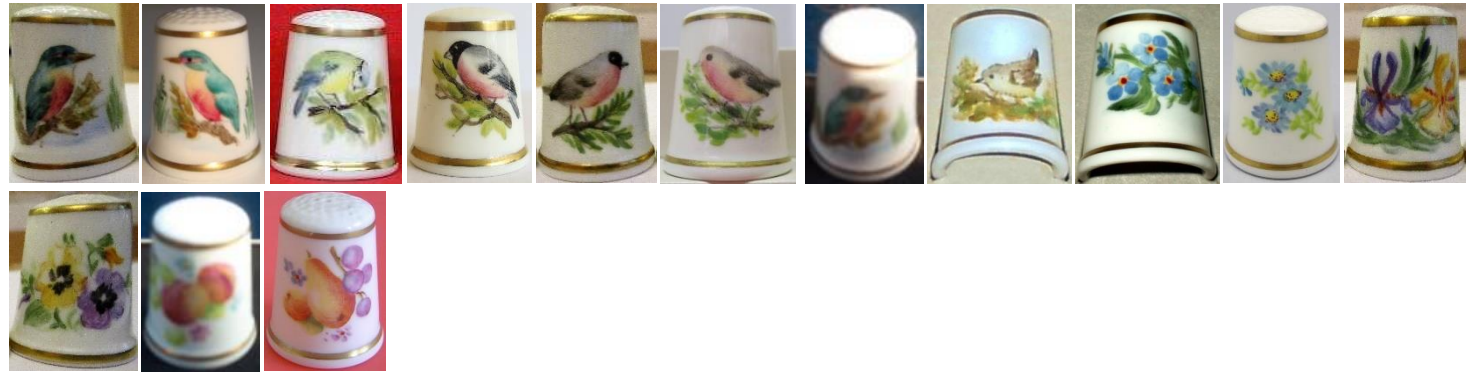
---

**R Land**

1970s-



**Jean Lawrence [JL]**  
 (b.1951)  
 1970-

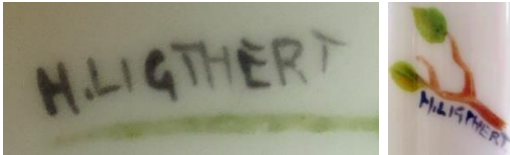


**Angela Lawson**  
 (b.1950)  
 1975-



**Helene Ligthert**  
 (b.1957)

September 1974-1978  
 - after 1974 she moved to the gilding department where she worked until 1980



---

**Christine Lloyd**  
- married name **Christine Steadman**  
1964



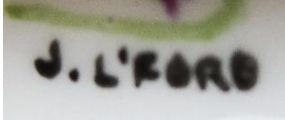
---

**Thomas Greville Lockyer [Tom]**  
(1913-1935) d.1935



---

**J Longford [J.L'ford]**



---

**Peter Love**  
ca.1950-1956

known to have painted fruit

---

**D Lowe**  
1950s-



---

**S L'Wood**  
1970s-  
- is this Lightwood or Leatherwood?



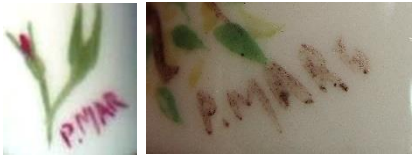
---

**H Manton** [H Man]  
1950s-1960s



---

**Pauline Margetts** [P Mar] [P Marg]  
(b.1951)  
- maiden name **Pauline Shephard**  
1967-



---

**J L Marks**



---

**Michael Mas**



---

**Carola Maslyn** (long signature shows **C Maslen**) [C Lyn]  
1960s- [larger backstamp]



**Douglas Massey** [D Masy]  
1951



**Mona McHarg**  
1960s-

**Sandra Meredith**  
1960s-



**Michelin (Micky) Miller**  
1944-1955  
- apprentice to Kitty Blake

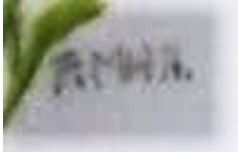


**Marie Milward**  
-1971



---

**F MHN.**



---

**Pauline Molloy**

(b.1951)  
1970s-



---

**Gillian Moody [M]**

(b.1944)  
1964-



---

**S Morgan**

1960s-



---

**M Morris**

(b.1957)  
1975-





---

**S Morris**  
1970s-



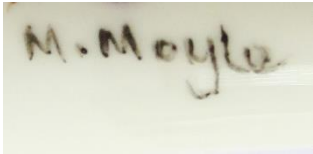
---

**George Mosley [Moseley]**  
1919-1939  
- one of the "Terrible Seven"  
(seven "rather boisterous" apprentices)



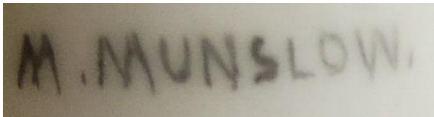
---

**M Moyle**  
1960s-



---

**Mandy Munslow**  
1970s-



---

**J Nady**



---

**J Nell**

1960s- [larger backstamp]



---

**William Nicholls**

(b.1933)

1950-1972



---

**S Norris**

- see **S Morris**

---

**P Norton**



**Allan Norwood**

ca.1948-1956

- went to Heathealey Fine Bone China who started up in Worcester for a short while



**Terence (Terry) Nutt**

1980s -



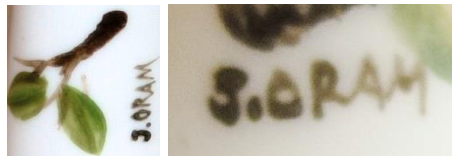
This is a handpainted thimble by Terence Nutt of Worcester. Signed 'T. Nutt' alongside fruit. The label was in the thimble box



**Judy Oram**

1971-

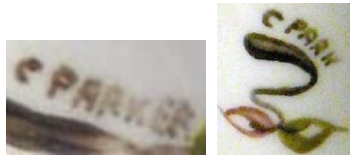
- her signature JO also found on Graham Payne Studio handpainted thimbles



**Judy Owen**  
(b.1946)  
1962-1978



**Christine Parker [C Park]**  
(b.1953)  
1971-1983  
- one of the last four thimble painters



**C Parks**  
1950-



**T Parr**  
1970s-



**P Payne**



**J Pearce**

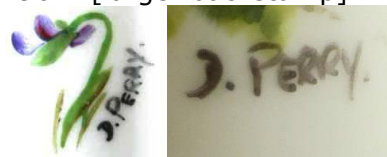
1960s-



**Diane Perry**

(b.1947)

1962- [larger backstamp]



**M Phips**

1955-



---

**Peter Platt**

(b.1935)

1951-

- nickname **'Sam'** or **'Abdul'** was sometimes signed on his thimbles as a joke by apprentices



in 1990s the Thimble Society of London commissioned thimbles painted by this artist. Three examples:



---

**Maurice J Pledger**

- I have seen this painter on thimbles issued by TCC [Renaissance and Oakley]

known to have painted birds

---

**S Pole.**

1950s-



---

**R Poole**

1950s-



**L Port.**  
1960s-



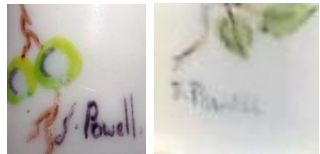
**H Pound [HP]**  
1970



**A Powell [A Pow.]**  
1950s-



**J Powell [J Pow]**  
1960s-



**Michael Powell**  
(b.1945)  
1966-

--

**William Seaborn Powell** [Willy Powell]  
(1878-1950)  
1891-1950  
- hunchback and dwarf





William Seaborn Powell (cont.)





**Linda Preece**

(b.1947)

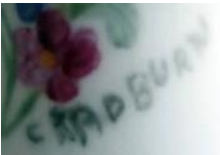
- married name **Linda Wilson**

1960s- [larger backstamp]



**C Radburn**

1970s-



**D Rankin**

1970s-



---

**J Ranler**



---

**J Rayner [J Ray]**  
1970s-



---

**Daisy Rea [DR]**  
(b.1894-1975)  
1909-1975  
- forewoman of lady painters  
- did she only paint flowers?

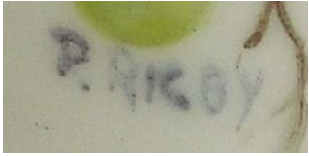


1920s



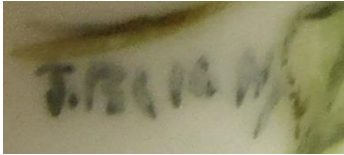
---

**Pat Rigby** [9]  
1951-1960s



---

**J Right**  
1960s-



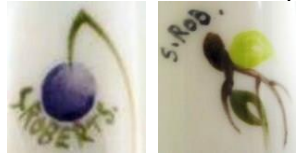
---

**A or N Roberts**  
1960s-



---

**Susanne Roberts** [S Rob.] [Sue Roberts]  
(b.1955)  
- maiden name **Susanne Waldron**  
1967-1980s  
- one of the last two painters



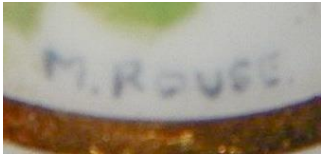
**Joan Ross**  
1965-



**Fiona Round [F R]**  
(b.1956)  
- married name **Fiona Bakewell**  
1973-



**M Rouse**  
1950s-



**C Row.**  
- what is the full name?



**P Roze**  
1950s-



**Salter**  
1970s-



**' Sam '**  
- Peter Platt's nickname

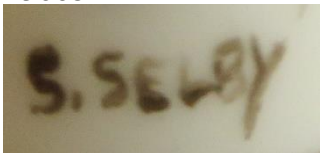
**S Sands**  
1960s- [+ larger backstamp]



**Eveline Sedgley**  
(b.1909)  
- pseudonym **' Willis '** used when ladies not allowed to sign their own name  
1924-1971



**S Selby**  
1960s-



---

**Filippa Serra**

(b.1951)

1970s-

- married name is **Filippa Whitford**

(**Christopher Whitford** also a RW painter)



---

**Pauline Shephard** [P Sheph] [P She]

(b.1951)

- married name **Pauline Margetts**

1967-



---

**J Sheri.**

1967 -



---

**Sheila Shinnie**

1960s

- married name **Sheila Dutfield**



**Albert Shuard**  
-1961



**James Skerrett**

- unusual to have painted dots on apex?



His thimbles are signed 'J Skerrett' and a decal mark inside. Examples of two thimbles:



**Christopher Smith**

**F Smith**  
1950s-



**John F Smith**

(b.1934-)  
1950s-



JS signature also found on Graham Payne Studio handpainted thimbles



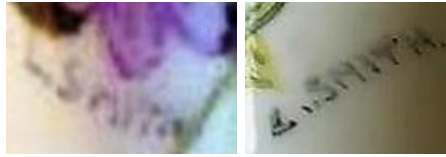


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**Lorraine Smith [LS]**

(b.1942)

1950s-



---

**John Smyth**

1950-1971



---

**Dorothy Sparks [Sparkes]**

(b.1935)

1951-1980s

- one of the last two painters and she was also the supervisor



---

**Christine Steadman**

1965-1966

- maiden name **Christine Lloyd**

---

**Fay Stephens/Stevens [FS]**

1949-

---

---

**Stinton**

1941

- could be any one of eight members of this family who painted for Royal Worcester

Harry at Worcester 1896-1963 Highland cattle

James (Jas) at Worcester 1902-1951 birds

John Jnr at Worcester 1902-1938 birds



---

**K Stott**

1970s-



---

**M Sutton**

1940s-



---

**Gertie Taunt**

1910-

---

**Angela Taylor**

1960s-



**L Taylor**  
1950s-



**R Thorn**  
1970s-



**Edward (Ted) Townsend**  
(b.1904)

1918-1942 and 1947-1971  
- foreman of men painters  
- one of the "Terrible Seven"  
(seven "rather boisterous" apprentices)



**Julia Vass** [J Vaas][J V]  
(b.1954)  
1971-



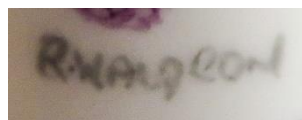
**Judy Vickers** [V]  
(b.1946)  
1965-

--

**Beverley Waldo**  
1977-

--

**Rosemary Waldron** [R]  
(b.1951)  
1967-  
- younger sister is Susanne



her RW initials are also found on [Graham Payne Studio](#) handpainted thimbles



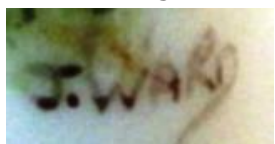
**Susanne Waldron** [S W]  
 (b.1955)  
 - married name **Susanne Roberts**  
 1971-  
 - older sister is Rosemary



**B Walter**  
 1970s-



**J Ward**  
 1960s- [larger backstamp]



**V Ward**  
 1950s-



**F B Well**  
 see **Fiona Bakewell**

---

**Sheila Whitcombe (nee Watson)**

A Royal Worcester modeller so there were no thimbles



paints now under the name of Dunheved China in Cornwall (partner of Derek Wilson). Signed S Whitcombe. Two examples:



---

**S White**



---

**W A White**



---

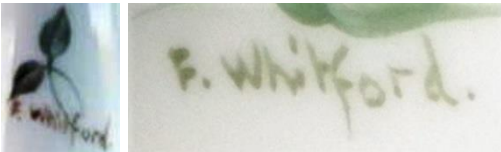
**Filippa Whitford**

(b.1952)

- maiden name **Filippa Serra**

(these two thimbles were privately commissioned, so no thimbles actually exist under her married name?)

1971-



**D Wild**  
1950s-



**S Wiley**  
1960s-

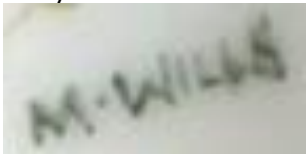


**Helen Williams**  
(b.1949)  
1975-



**' Willis '**  
- pseudonym used by **Eveline Sedgley**

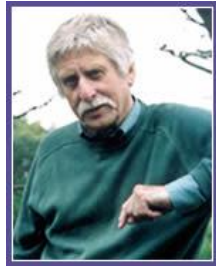
**M Wills**  
early 1960s



**Derek Wilson**

1930-1954

some have a single gilded band only



paints now under the name of Dunheved China in Cornwall (partner of Sheila Whitcombe). Signed D Wilson. Two of his thimbles:



**Linda Wilson**

(b.1947)

- maiden name **Linda Preece**

1970s-



mandy



**M Wilson**

1950s-





---

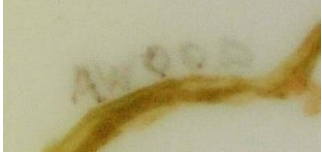
**E Wimperis**



---

**A Wood**

1950s



---

**C Wood**

1960s-

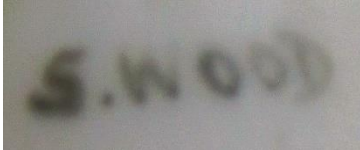


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**Sally Wood**

(b. 1971)

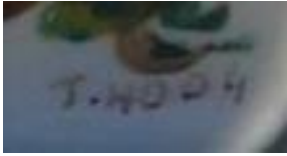
1960s- [larger backstamp]



---

**T Wood**

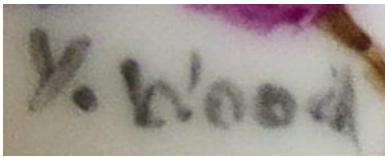
1970s-



---

**Y Wood**

1960s- [larger backstamp]



---

**M Woodings**

1960s-



---

**M Wyer**

1970s-





By Appointment to  
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II  
Manufacturers of China and Porcelain  
The Worcester Royal Porcelain  
Company Worcester

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## References

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This listing of Royal Worcester thimble painters does not purport to be complete or accurate in all aspects.  
Rather it invites comment and contribution to add to our knowledge. My thanks to the contributors.

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**October 2002**